

# Children of the Heavenly Father

By: Caroline Vilhelmina Berg

Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in Heaven  
Such a refuge ne'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish;  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Notes:

Hymn # 449 from *Christian Worship*

Tune: Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara (likely an old Scandinavian folksong)

1<sup>st</sup> Published in: 1855



*This beloved hymn uses pictures from nature to help children understand God's great love for us in Christ Jesus. The author is believed to have written this while she was still a teenage girl (possibly shortly after losing her own father, according to some traditions).*

*We'll sing this hymn in worship on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Until then, consider using it as a bedtime or after-dinner hymn with your family. It may be easier to start with just the first verse for a couple of nights (speak the words once with your children, then sing them). Once they learn that one, add another (and another!).*

*Once your children know the first verse, consider pointing out God's care for the birds outside in these winter months (or his power displayed in the stars at night) and asking your child to list ways they can know God loves them even more.*

*The Old English language in this hymn might be tricky for some children, but can be quickly and easily explained. Take some time to make sure they understand it!*